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# MADRAS WAR REVIEW

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## *The advantage is all ours*

COLONEL FRANK KNOX

*I THINK there are darned good prospects of an air attack on Tokyo, but when or how it will be hit, I will not say. But they had better get ready. Our submarines are doing a magnificent job and operations against Japanese lines of communication are going on at a good rate . . .*

*IN my judgment—it may be a fallacious one—but my opinion is the Japanese have abandoned any idea of reinforcement of their troops and within the next thirty days all organized resistance in Guadalcanar will disappear.*

*WE are giving the Japanese lots to worry about in the Pacific. In a war of attrition the advantage is all ours. In our vastly greater power of building, and in that type of warfare—I am not saying this is the only type—ultimate victory is certain.*

*COLONEL FRANK KNOX, United States Secretary for the Navy in an interview in New York on January 31, after a tour of inspection in the Pacific*

## POTATOES DO GROW IN MADRAS!

THE Madras Agri-Horticultural Society has just published an invaluable booklet called "Grow More Vegetables." It would be even more invaluable if it included a paragraph on potatœs. Oh! but potatœs cannot be grown in Madras, you say. Well, here is an extract from a conversation on February 1st with Mrs. Dorothy Clarke of Band Master's Quarters, Civil Orphan Asylum, Madras:

"I dug a trench about 18″ deep, towards the end of November, and manured it with last year's manure. I bought potatœs from the bazaar in lot and finding that some of them began to sprout in storage, cut out the 'eyes' and planted one yard apart in my trench, 'eyes' upwards, about a foot below the surface. The trench was filled in and watered twice a day until the rains came. Within three weeks plants were showing above the ground, and are now about 2 feet high.

Today, two months after I planted the 'eyes', I bring you a basket of a couple of pounds of perfect new potatœs—a hundred per cent germination outturn—and about 5 potatœs on each plant."

With our mouths watering we print this as a recommendation to Madras citizens to get down to a very valuable aspect of Government's "Grow More Food" Campaign.

## MONUMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

BEFORE our eyes one of the greatest marches of history has been performed by the Eighth Army in Africa, declares the *Daily Express*. No Allenby marching to Jerusalem, no Alexander crossing the country from Greece to India, no Xenophon bringing his 10,000 through Asia Minor to the sea can ever eclipse the story of the British route and German rout from Alamein to Tripoli. Marlborough's lightning dashes through Europe to the Danube are small affairs compared with the glory that is our General Alexander's and the monumental achievements that are Montgomery's. Bearing solemnly in mind all the difficulties that come in winning this war—the troubles that are and the trials that will be—let us uplift our hearts and rejoice at the triumph of our soldiery.

## . . . To the Troops!

You want to be amused?
You want some light music?
Well, tune in to *All-India Radio, Madras*,
211 or 60·98 metres,
**Every Wednesday at 10 p.m.**

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# Running Commentary

**Soviet advance towards Rostov: Alternatives before Germans.**

The Russian advance towards Rostov is continuing. They have captured the large railway junction of Kastornaya, where the Voronezh-Kursk and the Veluki-Yelets railway cross, Kropotkin, the vital railway junction on the main Rostov-Caucasus railway, Maikop and Tikhoretsk. The capture of the last two important positions means that the fate of the German divisions in this area is now sealed, as they are completely cut off from retreat northwards. The spearheads of the new Soviet pincers pointed westwards from Tikhoretsk and Maikop, and brought in all the German armies in the Caucasus into yet another Stalingrad trap and encompassed their annihilation. The capture of Maikop tightens the ring around the German forces in the Kuban and narrows their room for manœuvre. Maikop, in addition to its being of immediate tactical value, will be of considerable help in regard to oil. It is stated that special detachments of Soviet engineers followed closely behind their victorious troops and are busy restoring the damage in the Maikop oil fields wrought by the Red Army during its summer retreat. It is of special interest to note that Russian strategy in the Caucasus aimed at disorganizing the German communication lines by capturing important railway positions, and this has been done exceedingly well. Now Russians have taken the railway junctions of Kupyansk, Kuschevskaya, Zolotukhino and Vozy.

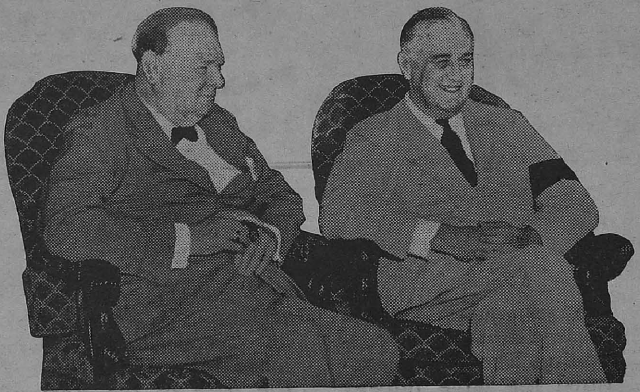
When the Russians started their offensive in the Caucasus, they attempted to cut the two main railway systems which fed the German armies in that region. The German thrusts closely followed the Soviet railway lines. Their move towards the Grozny oil wells took the path of the Rostov-Baku railway, while their drive to Stalingrad followed the Krasnodar-Stalingrad railway. An important stage in the Russian offensive was reached when Armavir and Salsk were captured from the Germans. After smashing up the German salient which pointed out dangerously towards the Grozny oil wells, the Russian forces advanced along both sides of the main Rostov-Caucasus railway and captured Armavir, which is the junction of the branch railway to the Maikop oil fields. From Armavir they struck westwards and captured Maikop. The next Soviet threat is to the Black Sea port of Tuapse.

Another Russian force which was operating along the Stalingrad-Krasnodar railway captured Salsk, the junction of the branch railway to Rostov. The next stage was the capture of Tikhoretsk, the junction of the Rostov-Baku and Stalingrad-Krasmodar railways. The importance of the Soviet capture of Tikhoretsk lies in the fact that though it has not cut off the German line of retreat to Rostov, it robs them of the most convenient way of cutting back.

What are the alternatives now before German forces? Will they fall back to Rostov or hold on in the western Caucasus and suffer the same fate as the German forces trapped before Stalingrad? Whatever it be, one thing is certain: the Soviet offensive in the Caucasus was mainly an attack on vital German communications, and the Red Army has succeeded in jeopardizing the enemy's communications with Rostov, their vital base.

(*Continued on page* 6.)

# The Casablanca Conference

★  ★

AT a press conference in Washington on Tuesday, President Roosevelt explained the objects and achievements of the Casablanca Conference held in French Morocco for 10 days from January 14. He said it was a conference to win and make plans for winning, so far as it was possible to plan ahead, for the year 1943. He emphasised what he had recently told the U.S. Congress, that he could not prophesy when and where the United Nations were going to strike next in Europe, but they were going to strike, and strike hard. He could not tell where they were going to hit them, but he declared that no matter where they struck by land, they would hit the enemy from the air heavily and relentlessly. The object of the Conference was, he said, in fulfilment of that statement, and it had reached a unanimous agreement as regards the "offensive campaigns of 1943." The Conference formally re-emphasised the agreement that the Allies would make no compromise with any of the aggressors. There would be no kind of negotiated armistice for obvious reasons, and the only way by which the war could be ended was by an unconditional surrender of the Axis powers. This was the central idea of the Casablanca Conference which, Mr. Churchill told newspapermen, was "the most important war conference" he had known.

## Two Objectives

TWO primary objectives were kept before the Conference, namely, the principle of pooling the Allied resources on a worldwide basis and that of maintaining the initiative of the Allied powers in every part of the world. As a result of the discussions on these objectives, four points emerge, says *Reuter's* Military Correspondent, which are of deep significance. First, offensives against Europe will take place this year; secondly, the plans are completed as to who is to commence these operations and how they are to be co-ordinated; thirdly, they envisage a complete victory of the Allies and an unconditional surrender of the enemy; and fourthly, both Soviet Russia and Chinese Governments have been consulted about, and informed of, the Allied plans. These four points, adds the correspondent, will give the German High Command cause for grave anxiety at a moment when troubles are gathering thick about their heads.

## Anxiety and Fear of Axis Leaders

THIS anxiety, which is rapidly developing into fear of the fate in store for the Axis, is revealed in declarations of Nazi leaders made last Saturday (January 30), when the 10th anniversary of Hitler's accession to power was celebrated in Germany. There

was, of course, the usual spate of speeches, but Hitler spoke *in absentia*—his proclamation was read by Goebbels; Goering addressed the German Armed Forces, but his speech was delayed by an hour by the first daylight-raid on Berlin by the R.A.F.,—the perfect timing of the raid has evoked admiration—and Goebbels spoke at a meeting of the Nazi party in the Berlin Sports Palast.

HITLER who, according to Goebbels, was "detained at his Headquarters in the east by the hard necessities of war," conjured up a vision of fear in his proclamation. He told the German people: "Such individual blows of fate as may fall on us in this struggle are nothing compared with what we would suffer if the barbaric force from the East rolled across our continent." He emphasised his point stressed last year that "any weakling can take victories—only strong men can take the blows of fate."

## Fate takes a Hand!

GOERING admitted in his speech that Providence which had hitherto smiled on German arms, had now left them to look after themselves. He said, "The German armies went from victory to victory until fate took a hand." He announced that Hitler had ordered the mobilization of all German men and women, because the fight had reached its peak and everyone at home and at the Front must regard himself as a fighter. Even in the speech of the Reich Minister of Propaganda, the note of anxiety and fear could not be suppressed. Goebbels said: "It is fitting that the 10th anniversary of our coming to power should be celebrated at a time of hardship and military and political stress. We are fighting a gigantic second winter war in the east. We must fight with almost superhuman efforts."

WHAT a contrast to their previous trumpet blasts and boasts of easy and certain victory!

THE note of fear and desperation has become still greater at the prospect of the future outcome of the Casablanca Conference. A Nazi broadcaster said: "We are aware, and presume, that the conference at Casablanca discussed plans for an attack on Europe. We know, however, that Europe is unassailable. Germany is marshalling her forces as they have never been mobilised before. She is determined to use her trump cards to marshal the forces of the whole of Europe and to use U-boats with ever increasing energy against Allied shipping."

*FESTUNG EUROPA* will be defended and the U-boat warfare will be intensified—that is the reply of the Nazis to the Casablanca Conference. This is a further admission by the enemy that he has lost the initiative and that it has definitely passed into Allied hands. The recent speeches of the Nazi leaders and their radio propaganda make it further clear that in Europe the Axis is relegated to a position of defence and an attitude of desperation. The Nazis may mobilise German manpower and material power to the fullest extent. They may, a Swiss report says, recruit all boys of 15 and over for work of secondary importance so as to release more men for the Front. They may shorten their fighting line in Russia and their retreating line in North Africa. They may even put out peace-feelers—Goering said, "An arrangement might be possible with gentlemen, but not possible with the Bolshevists," a hint for Britain and America! —But nothing will happen—nothing except the "total elimination of German and Japanese power, and this means "unconditional surrender by Germany, Italy and Japan," to use the words of President Roosevelt.

## Demand for Unconditional Surrender

THE Casablanca Conference has demanded unconditional surrender and decided upon all-out effort and strategy which would bring about that surrender. Mr. Churchill felt sure that "the most excellent results would be forthcoming." Everything points to the fact that the Premier's optimism would be justified before the year is out.

## RUNNING COMMENTARY

(*Continued from page 3.*)

**" Guerilla Warfare " in China : Success in a large measure.**

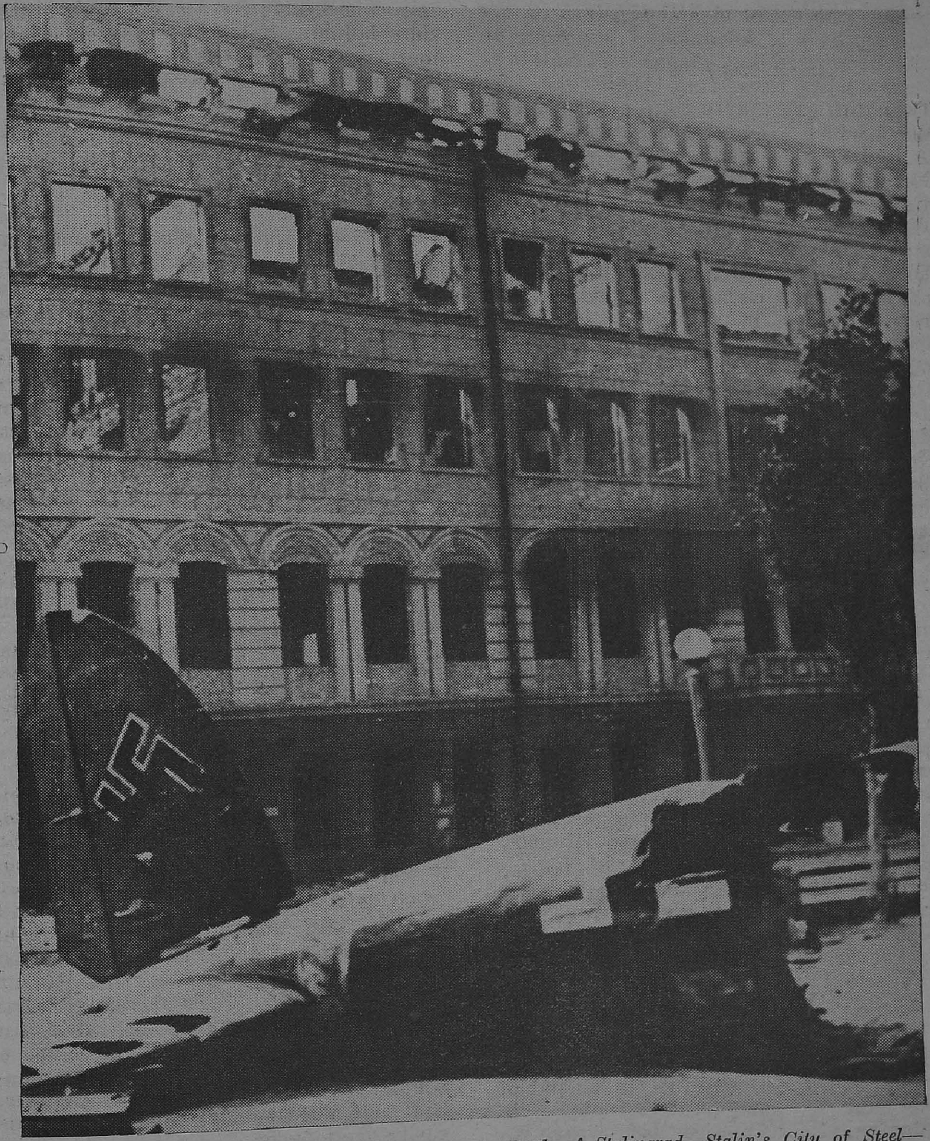
In the course of a comment on the Casablanca Conference **The China Times** refers to the tremendous successes achieved by the Soviet Union against Hitler and the heavy defeats sustained by him in North Africa, and says, " It is only in the South-west Pacific and in the China theatre that we and our enemy are still struggling for the initiative. China has held the enemy in check from any significant offensive." China has been holding up the enemy's advance against great odds for quite a considerable time. One of the ways in which she has been able to achieve this is by Guerilla warfare.

The name " Guerilla " came from Spain, which is historically the home of this type of warfare. It was because of the Spaniards' fierce hatred of the invader that Spain became an " ulcer " to Napoleon. Guerilla warfare must have two factors for success, viz., the co-operation of the civil population and the existence of a " National Army, " which can offer some threat to the invading enemy. Guerilla warfare in South Africa was a failure, in spite of the great courage and resistance of the Boers, because there was no national army. In Manchuria, Guerilla warfare is ineffective, because of this same reason. The Chinese people in Manchuria intensely hate Japanese conquerors, but there is no national army to give the popular hatred the stiffening it requires. It is only in North China that Guerilla activity has achieved the greatest successes, in spite of the fact that the Japanese are active in harassing operations which have laid waste large stretches of the countryside. The successes of the Chinese Guerillas in the north was mostly due to the fact that they are the remains of the old " Communist " Eighth Route Army, which is operating from the mountainous country along the Hopei-Shansi border. The Guerillas are not bandits, but a uniformed and properly organized body led by General Nieh Jung-Chieng. In Central China there is a Guerilla army under the leadership of General Yuan. It is fighting the enemy under very difficult conditions, because the Japanese reign of terror does not give the civil population any chance for active co-operation with the Guerillas. But it may be stated that the Chinese Guerillas have succeeded in a large measure in tying down a very considerable proportion of the half million or more of the Japanese in China.

* * *

**Great Advance in North Africa : importance of capture of Tripoli.**

The Eighth Army is progressing from success to success. It has occupied Zuara and the campaign will very shortly be carried right into Tunisia. It is no longer a question of the defence of Egypt, or the conquest of Libya. A new task is facing General Montgomery's Army. It is to attack the east flank of the German-Italian forces who have been ordered to hold Tunisia, the last Axis stronghold in North Africa, at all costs. The loss of Tripoli has already cast a gloom over Italy. The Fascist Press however, seek to minimize this important victory. They say that Tripoli's fall is neither an Italian defeat nor an English victory. Mussolini's *Popolo d'Italia* states that Tripoli was merely " evacuated " by the Axis forces who now continue their " advance towards the west." However much the enemy may belittle the capture of Tripoli, the fact remains that it is an invaluable base for the Eighth Army working in co-operation with the Anglo-American forces. Between Bizerta and Alexandria it is the best harbour for ocean-going vessels. It kept the Afrika Corps in Libya supplied for two years. Its possession in Allied hands will be of very great help in shortening the long overland haul for supplies from the Nile Delta. It may also be pointed out that Tripoli is only 200 miles from Malta, the " island aircraft-carrier ", which was supposed to be doomed by the enemy, when Rommel broke into Tobruk for his short-lived triumph. Within 24 hours of its capture, the Royal Air Force has occupied a chain of first-rate air fields in Tripolitania. Outside Tripoli, the Castel Benito airfield has been captured. This brings about an interlocking of Allied airpower from east and west over North Tunisia. It is obvious that air supremacy over the Tunis-Bizerta front and over the sea-narrows is an essential condition for victory in the coming battle, which is certain to be even more decisive and far-reaching than the Battle of El Alamein. Hitler has realized the importance of this battle and that is why he is willing to sacrifice 50,000 of his best troops.



*Reuter's Military Commentator says, "The gigantic Battle of Stalingrad—Stalin's City of Steel—has come to an end after 142 days of the grimmest and bloodiest siege fighting of the whole war." The above photo was taken soon after a Nazi plane was shot down in a street in Stalingrad.*

**The U-Boat Menace : Allies' Counter-measures.** In a press interview on Sunday (January 31) last, Colonel Frank Knox, the U.S. Secretary for the Navy, referred to an important problem facing the Allies. He said the submarine war situation in the Atlantic is still a tough problem and lots of losses are ahead there for us. It is clear from this statement that this year Hitler will stake everything on his U-boats and will try to sink Allied ships so fast that the opening date of the European offensive will have to be postponed. If this can be done indefinitely he will be in a position to make the stalemate peace offer, which, of course, would never be accepted. German U-boats, according to Mr. A.V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, are now operating in "echelons of packs"

which are supplied and repaired on the high seas by "U-tankers", according to the Berlin radio. *Reuter's* Naval Correspondent says that there are 150 U-boats (less than a third of the whole fleet) which are always operating in the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the North Sea, and they are being built at the rate of 15 to 20 a month. The main U-boat base in France, Lorient, has been subjected to heavy bombing attacks by the R.A.F. recently. The Lorient workshops are large enough to carry out major repairs. Two heavily concreted pens have been built by the Germans to house 40 U-boats, and a third is being constructed which is capable of taking another 10. The overhaul picture of the war, said Mr. Stimson, the U.S. Secretary for War recently, is decidedly bright for the Allies, "with the exception of the sinkings by U-boats." U-boat warfare, it may be stated, is the instrument on which Hitler is banking to avert total defeat.

What are the counter measures that the Allies are taking to avert the U-boat menace ? In the British Isles, air patrols have been intensified to a very great extent—to such an extent that Sir Archibald Sinclair, Britain's Air Minister, declared, "No U-boat dares show itself on the surface within three miles." The British Coastal Command Aircraft flew 1,250,000 miles to ensure safe passage of convoys which carried our expeditionary force to French North Africa last November. The success of Allied air patrols has driven the U-boats further afield. Now Britain and America are devoting a large part of the naval construction programmes to building anti-submarine craft—destroyers, corvettes, and sloops.

* * *

**Tremendous Output of U.S. Merchant Shipping.** There was a tremendous increase in the output of merchant shipping in America last year. In September 1941 America built nine ships (86,185 deadweight tons) ; in September 1942 she built 93 ships (1,009,800 deadweight tons). In March 1942 America was building new ships at the rate of one a day ; in December 1942 the rate was four a day and, after three months from now, that is, by May 1943, the rate should be five a day—1,825 new ships in a year. There is no doubt that the Allies can outbuild the sinkings of the U-boats.

The importance of shipping as an essential factor for victory cannot be exaggerated. To have enough ships to transport enough supplies within a strictly limited period is, it may be stated, like holding the key to victory in our hands. This point was clearly brought out by a Japanese broadcaster on July 20, 1942. He said :

"It is not too much to say that the present war is a war of shipping space. The side which loses its power of transportation will eventually lose the war."

An idea of the extent of distances that Allied ships have to cover can be gathered from a few figures, which make it clear that the greater the distance between supply base and battle-front, the larger is the number of ships required to transport an equivalent volume of supplies. The following are roughly the distances between North America and important Allied bases :—

| | | MILES. |
|---|---|---|
| From U.S.A. to | London .. .. | 4,000 |
| | Moscow (*via* Basra). | 14,000 |
| | Chungking .. .. | 13,000 |
| | Calcutta .. .. | 12,000 |
| | Sydney .. .. | 7,000 |
| | Cairo .. .. | 12,000 |

The average distance is 10,300 miles.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| From Britain to | Moscow (*via* Arctic). | 4,000 |
| | Chungking .. .. | 13,000 |
| | Calcutta .. .. | 12,000 |
| | Sydney .. .. | 12,000 |
| | Cairo .. .. | 12,000 |

The average distance is 10,600 miles.

To cover a distance of 10,000 miles, ships in convoy take about six weeks, and double that time to deliver their freight and return home. For instance, if 100 ships are available to transport 1,000,000 tons of supplies from England to India and each ship can carry 5,000 tons of cargo, the 100 ships will not be able to undertake any other task for at least six months. This means that, if 200 ships are available, this work can be done in half the time. It is all a simple, elementary question of mathematics. But it is this aspect of the war, the time-and-tonnage factor, which is easily overlooked.

* * *

**The Linch-Pin of Victory.** Shipping is the linch-pin of victory. An idea of the shipping strength of the United Nations can be had when it is realized that we have sufficient control of the U-boats to continue the aid to Russia and the supplies to North Africa, the Middle East, India, China and Australia. Field Marshal Wavell recently said that the requirements of the North African campaign did not adversely affect the supply of the forces in India. This clearly shows that there is a surplus of shipping strength which is holding the enemy.

# Pincer Movement against High Prices

By C. H. MASTERMAN, I.C.S.

MOST of you know Napoleon's dictum 'An Army marches on its stomach ' and many of you have heard or read the words of Field Marshal Sir Archibald Wavell " Of the elements which contribute to success in modern warfare the *spirit* of the people is the most important.'' In other words, in this war the people are part of the army—and a very important part. This is a total war. Everyone is in the fighting line. Let me put the point in the form of what the logicians call a syllogism. The efficiency of the Army depends on its getting a sufficient supply of food. The people is part of the Army in this war. Therefore the people's efficiency to fight our common enemy depends on everyone getting a sufficient supply of food. I need not further labour the point. I will only remind you that the National War Front has, I am sure rightly, now made this question of food supplies one of the main planks in its platform.

It is less obvious why this effort to see that everyone gets sufficient food at a fair price is a *common concern*—the business of *everyone*—a contribution which *everyone* can make to the war effort. People generally imagine that this is purely Government's business. It *is* Government's business, but I want to show you this evening that it is not *only* Government's responsibility, it is also yours and mine, and I want to explain to you how each one of us can help very materially indeed in this effort to ensure that every man, woman and child in this country gets sufficient to eat at a reasonable price.

Difficulties in the distribution of foodstuffs and other things, scarcity of some articles which we are accustomed to have, and the high price we have to pay for things now are clearly due primarily to the war, which Hitler forced upon an unwilling world in 1939. That is so for several obvious reasons. For example, our enemies are still in occupation of some of the countries which used to send us their products, so that we can't get these things now. Burma for instance used to send us oil, petrol and rice, and Malaya rubber. And again the transport of goods both to this country and within it is difficult, because Hitler has scattered his U-boats over the high seas and because transport of all kinds is wanted for moving troops and war material both *to* this country for purposes of its defence and inside it. It follows therefore, doesn't it ?—that the sooner we drive our enemies out of those countries which he has occupied, a process which as you know has begun in Burma, the sooner we put every ounce of energy into winning this war, the sooner will our troubles be over and high prices cease.

I do not however mean to imply that Government or anyone else should *during* the war just sit back and do nothing about controlling prices. Far from it, I want to show you that Government should do—and as a matter of fact are doing a good deal to see that there is fair distribution of available food and to control its price and that everyone of us can and ought to do a great deal to help, as part of his contribution to the war effort.

## THE POSITION IN A NUTSHELL

Now stated in the simplest terms possible the position in India seems to be something like this :—Owing to large payments by Government for war supplies and for wages to those doing war work, the total amount of money in circulation has enormously increased. At the same time owing mainly to lack of transport to bring things into India other than war material, most commodities are scarce. These two factors—an increase in the amount of money with which to purchase things and a decrease in the amount of goods available for purchase—will obviously lead to a general rise in prices.

How can this state of affairs be remedied? In two ways I think. By an effort to reduce the amount of money available for spending, and by an effort to control prices directly by fixing by law the prices at which things are to be sold and by rationing the quantity of things which people are allowed to buy. Both these lines of attack on high prices are necessary if prices are to be kept down. The one is complementary to the other. In the language of military strategy, with which we are all now familiar, I suggest that there should be a pincer movement against high prices.

How then first can the amount of money in circulation be reduced? The answer is by inducing people to save instead of spending their money on non-essentials or on a larger quantity of essentials than they really need. By saving I do not mean hoarding, because money which is hoarded is merely potential purchasing money which can become effective purchasing money at any moment. By saving I mean putting all the money which we do not need to buy essentials into defence and other war saving schemes. I am sure that many people are still spending in war time much more than is necessary on entertainments, feasts, festivals and the like. That

then is something which a great many of us can do to help keep prices down. If you put all the money you can spare over and above what you really require for the necessaries of life into war loans, you will not only be giving Government money with which to carry on the war but you will be doing a social service by diverting some of the surplus money in circulation into channels where it cannot be spent on non-essentials and you will thereby be helping to keep the price of essentials down.

**PUT THE SURPLUS IN WAR SAVING SCHEMES**

Let me hasten to add that I am not asking the *poor* to save nor to persuade them that they are paying more for their food, because they have more money in their pockets to pay the enhanced prices. I have every sympathy with the small boy who when asked who Lord Woolton, the Minister for Food in England, was, said " He's the bloke what tells us to eat less of what we aint got none of." My point is that if everyone, who *has* anything to save, puts the surplus into war saving schemes there would be more for the poor to eat and the price which they have to pay for their food would tend to go down.

Now when I said something like this a few weeks ago, I was told that I was drawing a red herring across the trail. I do not think this matter of saving is by any means a red herring. I think it is a main issue—a very important part of what I have called the pincer movement attack on high prices. If we do not employ this method of attack, we shall be trying to crack a nut—and this high price problem is a very hard nut to crack—with one arm of our nut-cracker missing.

I come now to the other arm of our pincer attack on high prices, the direct control of prices by Government and the rationing of the quantities which consumers are allowed to buy. And you should remember that rationing by itself without controlling the price at which the rationed quantity is to be sold cannot be completely effective in reducing prices. Government have by no means been idle in this matter. As you know many things—Kerosene oil and petrol for instance have been rationed and the prices of other things such as sugar and matches have been fixed. The staple food of the greater part of India, rice, has not been rationed. Short of rationing however Government have done, and are doing, a great deal to see that all parts of the country get adequate supplies of rice and to control its price. I must confine my remarks this evening to Madras City but what is being done here is an example of the sort of measures which are being taken to control prices in other parts of the country. Madras City depends on imports of rice from other districts and Government are now buying stocks for the city in those markets where stocks are largest at the cheapest price possible through their own grain purchasing officers. Governmet are also by arrangement with the railways seeing that the rice bought is brought into Madras in adequate quantities. Then when the rice is brought into Madras, steps are being taken to see that it is sold at a reasonable price to the consumer. To this end certain wholesalers have opened 12 depots in various parts of the city and Government themselves have opened 4 similar depots at which rice is sold to the public in small quantities at a fixed price of $2\frac{3}{4}$ measures for the rupee. The Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society is also selling rice at a fixed price at their shops and for those who prefer to buy by the bag, certain shops are selling not more than 2 bags at a time at a fixed price not exceeding Rs. 16–11–0 per bag. All these shops and depots are regularly inspected by Government officers and I think I can safely say that everyone can get rice now in the city, though not necessarily the particular kind they prefer, in reasonable quantities at a reasonable price.

**CONTROLLING THE PRICE AT BOTH ENDS.**

Many of you are, I expect, wanting to ask me what I mean by a reasonable price. That is a very reasonable question. Obviously $2\frac{3}{4}$ measures of rice for the rupee would not have been a reasonable price in 1938. I would define then a reasonable price as that price to the consumer which has given no-one from the producer to the retail seller more than a fair share of profit. That is exactly what Government are trying to do. They are controlling the price both at the producing end and the consuming end. They are taking steps to see that neither the producer, that is the agriculturist, nor the miller, who converts the paddy into rice, nor the merchant who distributes it, gets more than fair payment for the services which he renders to the community. Primarily the price depends on the amount which is paid to the producer for his paddy and it must be remembered in comparing the price of rice now with the price before the war, firstly that the agriculturist was not getting a very fair deal before the war and is

(*Continued on page* 12)

**BRITAIN AND TURKEY**

" Bonds of friendship and mutual good understanding between Turkey and the United Kingdom have been confirmed, and still further strengthened, by the frank conversations which ensued at this meeting."

—A *Communique* issued after the Churchill-Inonu meeting.

(DEATH TO JAPAN): "I trust you appreciate what he is doing for you."

—Special to *Madras War Review*.

## PINCER MOVEMENT AGAINST HIGH PRICES

(*Continued from page 10*)

entitled to get some advantage from the general rise in prices and secondly that his costs of production—the cost of agricultural instruments for instance—has risen enormously. That sounds very much like a vicious circle. It costs the agriculturist more to produce his paddy; therefore he has to pay more for it when he consumes it as rice. It *is* a vicious circle, but that circle has to be broken somewhere and I maintain that if we can ensure that in the case of rice no-one from producer to retail seller makes an undue profit we are helping to keep the price of the staple food of the country down and consequently helping to retard a general rise in price including the prices which the agriculturists have to pay for producing paddy.

### RATION YOURSELVES VOLUNTARILY

Briefly those are the measures which Government are taking to control prices. What can the public—everyone of us—do to help? I have already said that everyone can help by economical spending and wise saving. We can also help by refraining from buying more, even of the necessaries of life, than we actually need at the time. Do not buy more than you actually need. In other words ration yourselves voluntarily.

Then finally everyone can discourage profiteering, hoarding and black-marketing by refusing to patronize the black-market and by giving reliable information to the authorities of the existence of these enemies of society. Government are determined to expose and punish with the full rigour of the law, hoarders, profiteers and the like. It is up to you, as part of your war effort, to help to destroy these enemies within our gates as much as it is to help to conquer and destroy the enemy without.

*—A talk broadcast from A.I.R., Madras, on Monday, February 1.*

# Britain and the War

## Karig, in "Liberty," replies to "Life"

[*Walter Karig, the political commentator of 'Liberty' and well-known correspondent, takes off the gloves properly to detractors of Great Britain.*]

"TO hear some people talk—or to read what they write—you would imagine the Atlantic Ocean to be a one-way street so far as war materials are concerned, and the British Isles a bottomless sack held open by helpless people for the output of America's farms and factories. That is because wholly for strategic purposes no publicity has been given to the contributions made by the British to the United States fighting forces. It is a fact that the Americans west coast down to tropical waters is as impregnable to air raids as it can be made because the British rushed anti-aircraft equipment over here almost before the smoke cleared away from Pearl Harbour. It is a fact, however, which cannot be made public in detail because that would let the enemy know what will be waiting for him when he tries to ram his big black-bristled head against our defences.

### SECRECY IS NECESSARY

"It is also most widely forbidden to discuss the constant aid which the British have supplied us with for fighting submarines in American waters—to fight them on the sea and over it.

"Unfortunately this necessary secrecy serves to hamper the efficiency of the United Nations because it permits professional Anglophobes, those amateur belittlers of the British and Axis propagandists to spread the mouldy old lies that 'England will fight to the last American,' and 'that the United States is paying for England's war.'

"The time will come when it will be safe to relate in detail how, when the war came to United States the flow of fighting equipment across the Atlantic was suddenly reversed as American export of munitions was halted to arm our own forces.

### WHAT BRITISH HAVE DONE

"Meanwhile, without indulging in any British propaganda, let's take a look at the job the English are doing and have done. If they had not done it so superlatively well, Hitler would be in Windsor Castle to-day—he might even be in Ottawa, Canada, heartening his troops invading the United States!

"Remember that for more than two years the concentrated Nazi might and power has been perched only 20 miles from Britain and that the island has been under almost continuous bombardment all that time. Old stuff may be, but remember it anyhow!

"What the British have done and are doing is tremendously important to each and everyone of us who are now their partners in this war and in the peace to come. It is also an object lesson in what all-out war means, which we are going to find out ourselves. The time is not far off when the petty inconveniences of sugar, gasoline, and tyre rationing are going to seem like fun. What we are going to do without will be not only silk stockings and trouser cuffs; before this war is very much older we are going to live almost as austerely as the British have been doing for a long, long time.

### EVERYTHING MOBILISED

" Everything in Britain is mobilized for the winning of the war—everything and everybody. Two out of every three persons—not men alone, but women and children too—who are able-bodied and between the ages of 14 and 65 are working full time in the armed forces, civilian defence or war industries. Every single able-bodied male between 18½ and 51 has been drafted into the armed forces unless irreplaceable in an essential industry. In England you work in a munitions factory or you fight, unless you are bedridden or imbecile."

### IMPRESSIVE LISTING

From this point onwards Karig's article categorically listed British industrial and military accomplishments, the damage suffered from the blitz, the civilians killed, and the whole regime of blood, sweat and tears.

He detailed that last year the United States sent Britain only one quarter of the aeroplanes that the British sent out to the battlefronts and to her allies. " They put 15 tanks into action for every one we exported to England."

" A pair of shoes has to last the average wearer in Britain—strictly rationed on clothing—two or three years. But that is because the British have sent four million pairs to Russia."

The article relates: " For every airplane England imports she exports four of her own manufacture to Russia. British railroad shop workers did a year's work in ten weeks for the trans-Persian line, which American Engineers completed, to carry supplies from the Persian Gulf to the Caucasus."

### BRITAIN HELPS HER ALLIES

Walter Karig goes on to explain how Britain is equipping and supporting the military and naval units of the Free French, the Norwegian, the Polish and the Holland exiled Governments, and how much the war is costing the average Englishman in taxes compared with the American ratepayer.

" The Englishman is fundamentally an individualist and isolationist like ourselves. There is no more an average Englishman than there is an average American, but take the two peoples group by group—farmers, insurance men, machinists, lawyers, firemen, and so on—and it is astonishing how much alike we are, even though America is more European in its ancestry than Britain is.

### WHY, INDEED ?

" Why do we and the English have such cockeyed ideas about each other? Fossilized traditions are to blame in part no doubt, and so is Hollywood, and so are the fiction writers of both countries. At any rate, let's bear this in mind, that the 46 million Englishmen packed into an island not so large as our single State of Arizona have habits, ideas, and ideals pretty much like our own. They are more outraged and outspoken about the stupidities of their leaders than the most anti-British of Americans. Next time you think of an Englishman don't think of a tall drooping bloke with monocle. Think of a man or woman very much like yourself, only working twice as hard and living on less than half as much."

# A Portrait of President Roosevelt

[*President Roosevelt was 61 on Saturday last (January 30.) " The birthday comes," says the* New York Times, *" at the close of one of the most brilliant episodes of his career—a journey which brought the breath of his democratic enthusiasm into three continents— a conference which dramatized the fact that, psychologically, this war has passed to the United Nations." In the following article, which appeared in the* New York Times *magazine of January 24, Mr. Woolf describes an informal chat with President Roosevelt, who was sitting for his birthday portrait.*]

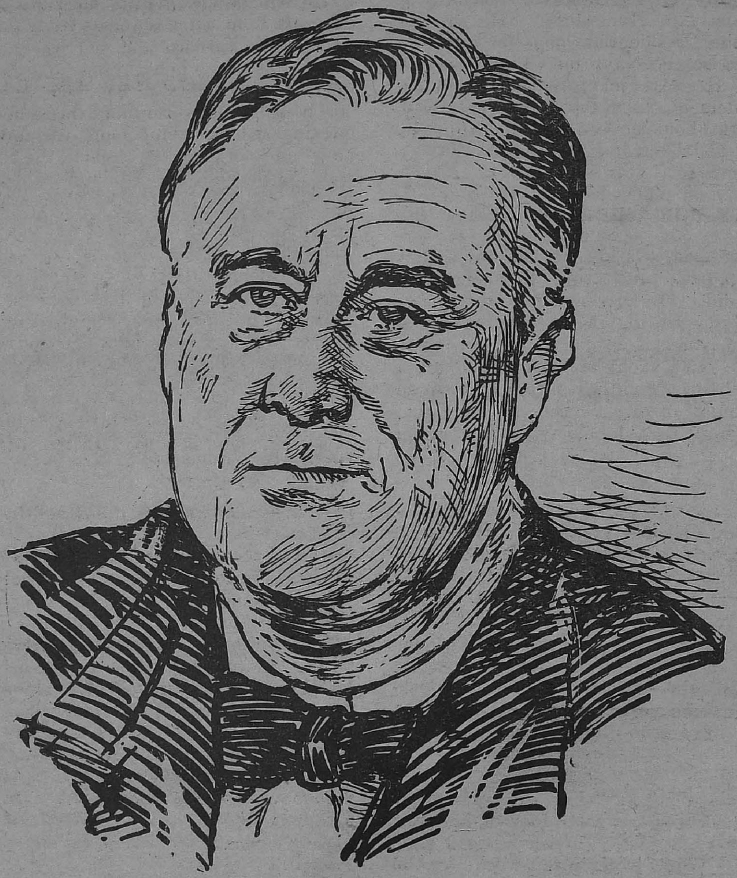
ON January 31, Franklin D. Roosevelt will be 61 years old. No man in the world has a harder job. No one is carrying a heavier burden or bearing greater responsibilities. Yet when I asked him the other day if he ever lay awake at night and worried, he smiled, shook his head, and replied : " Never."

As he sits at his large desk carrying on the affairs of a nation at war, he is much the same man whom I first met 18 years ago in the library of his New York home. There is the same indomitable will and unfailing optimism, the same heartiness of manner, the same ability to switch suddenly from one subject to another. And always the Roosevelt smile hovers, ready to break at the slightest provocation.

### CHANGES OF EXPRESSION

The suddenness with which his expression changes is a barometer of his mental processes. Over and over again I have seen him turn from one problem to an entirely different one with no apparent effort. While he was posing, he asked me to leave the room for a few minutes while he carried on a long-distance telephone conversation. When it was over I returned, but he paid no attention as I opened the door. It was evident that he was pondering some serious matter and I hesitated to make my presence known.

Suddenly he looked up and laughingly said : " Come on back." He was an entirely different person from the one I saw as I stood in the doorway. The change was startling.



Having this type of mind, the President can interrupt his work, telephone a sick friend, arrange a practical joke on an intimate, then take up the point where he left off. I have the impression that he uses those interruptions for relaxation and, when he feels that his mind is becoming a little tired, turns to something for a few seconds so he can once more look at the problem from a new point of view.

If he is interested in what a visitor is saying, the President is a good listener, encouraging talk with a frequent nod and an interjected "yes" or "grand."

**NEVER PERTURBED**

In all the times I have drawn him in the White House, I cannot remember one occasion on which he seemed either perturbed or hurried. While I was with him the other day he read fully a hundred typewritten letters, signing each one. He saw three or four visitors, talked on subjects as far apart as Podunk and Shangri-la, and made five telephone calls.

No one who has not seen the President at work can picture the apparent ease with which he performs his duties. The magnitude of the job does not seem to appall him. He makes decisions quickly and with finality. Once made, they are dismissed and another subject taken up.

Nor has the Presidency quenched Mr. Roosevelt's insatiable curiosity about people. In making the drawing, I decided to concentrate on his head and leave out his coat, tie and collar. I jokingly said that I hoped he wouldn't object to this, although I had done the same thing when I drew Mussolini. At the mention of Mussolini's name he turned quickly towards me and asked a number of questions. When I had finished giving him all the details of the sitting, he remarked, "Well, I guess he's an actor after all."

In looking after his health, one thing of which Mr. Roosevelt is careful is the amount of sleep he gets. He said: "One difference between Teddy Roosevelt and me is that he could get along on six hours sleep and I need eight. So I see I get it."

The only way the President can rest now is to go off quietly to Hyde Park. He can no longer use the Presidential yacht for a week-end trip because the Navy feels that it would be unsafe. He says jokingly that he must obey the orders of the Navy. He gets away to Hyde Park about three days a month. He says that is all the rest he needs.

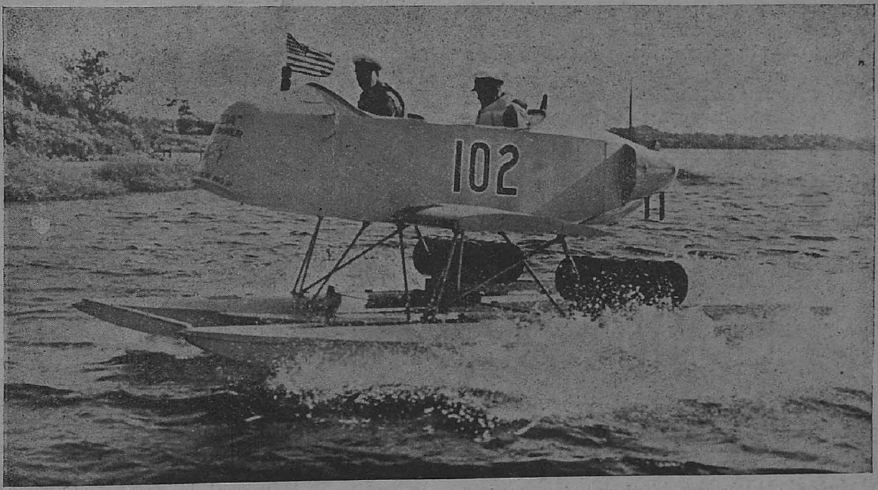
### LESS TIME FOR HOBBIES

Perhaps one deprivation he suffers is that he cannot give as much time to his hobbies as he once did. He can no longer sit undisturbed, studying the rigging or lines of an old ship model. Nor can he devote much time to stamps. He once spent at least one night a week with them. This has been cut down to about one night in two weeks. But he told me with a smile: "I always have them about."

He can still find time for general reading. He can skim a book and get the meat out of it. Many authors and publishers send him copies of new publications and he usually takes three or four to bed. He spends about an hour a night running through them and picking out parts for more carfeul study.

It was almost seven o'clock and the President was ready to leave, but his work for the day had not ended. He had made arrangements with one of his secretaries to take dictation that evening. I had a glance at his calendar for the day and wondered how, having done what he had done, he could do more. I stopped for a minute and asked one more question: "How in the world, Mr. President, can you do all the things you do?"

He looked up in surprise and in the most matter of fact way answered: "By living a perfectly normal life."




*NEW ANTI-SUBMARINE WEAPON.—A new kind of American vessel, designed for anti-submarine patrol, is put through tests on the U.S. East Coast. Powered by an Aerial engine, the craft skims along the water's surface at 50 miles an hour, and according to its inventor, Antoine Gazda, it cannot be detected by undersea listening devices. The boat is armed with four depth charges, a light cannon, and a machine-gun. It can be hoisted and carried on any vessel as easily as a lifeboat.*

# Frontiers of Deliverance within Reach

By WICKHAM STEED

A comprehensive survey of the war as a whole warrants the belief that Allied progress to victory is swifter than developments on any single front may suggest. Of striking episodes there is no lack. But so keen is public interest in these episodes that their cumulative significance is often overlooked.

The sustained and impressive Russian advance captures imagination and tends to monopolize world attention. Yet the heavy defeat of the Japanese convoy off Lae, New Guinea, is hardly less significant in another sphere of operations especially in comparison with the successful passage of a huge Allied convoy to Northern Russia and the failure of

mass attacks by German U-boats to prevent another huge trans-Atlantic convoy from reaching British ports. The Russian armies, as the military spokesman of Hitler's High Command, General Dietmar, now admits, have the upper hand, numerically and strategically, of Hitler's armies on land.

### SEA AND AIR SUPERIORITY

On sea and in the air Allied forces have equally the upper hand of the Axis. Nor is there any sign that this double superiority is likely to be lost. Rather the contrary.

General Dietmar has also told German people that the Russian offensive is "more concentrated, more exhausting and more dangerous" than it was last winter, when, as Hitler confessed, it brought Germany to the verge of disaster. Dietmar announces more severe measures for the reinforcement of Hitler's troops. But attempts to obtain fresh divisions from Rumania and Hungary for the Russian front are causing disturbances in those countries, while dwindling faith in German victory is increasing their reluctance to make further sacrifices in support of the Axis.

### HITLER'S PROBLEMS

If Germany herself possessed large reserves of men, she would not have compelled millions of disaffected foreign slaves to work in German fields and factories. So the conclusion appears justified that Hitler is confronted with serious problems both of manpower and war production.

On the Allied side manpower and war production are steadily increasing. While British production rolls on in a mighty stream, the totals of United States production are higher than the whole output of the Axis. Hitler knows, as Japan knows, that the Axis will be hit hard and relentlessly this year in every theatre of war. What they do not know is exactly where and how they will be hit or what strength they can muster to withstand Allied blows.

Behind the comparative lull of the North African front, preparations are going on steadily for complete ejection of the Axis from the southern shores of the Mediterranean. Italy will be obliged to choose between surrender and progressive devastation. The Balkans, where strong centres of resistance remain uncrushed, will hail Italian discomfiture with delight. Nor will Hitler find France, the Low Countries, Denmark and Norway easy to control when he is manifestly fighting rearguard actions on every front. Then he may be faced with the most serious problem of all.

### FEAR OF INTERNAL REVOLT

This problem is more internal than external. Hitler and Himmler have been building up a strong force of picked Black Guards or "Waffen SS" to defend themselves and the Nazi Party in case the German people or sections of the army should attempt to overthrow the Third Reich.

If these highly trained ruffians, who number 600,000 men, should be used mainly or exclusively to terrorise Germans in Germany and to hold down subjugated nations, lack of manpower in the field might become catastrophic. Should they be used as fighting formations on various fronts, the German home front might be endangered. More than once differences have arisen between Hitler and leading German generals upon the employment of these SS divisions. I see no reason to doubt that such differences will grow more acute in future.

### BERLIN, ROME AND TOKYO

President Roosevelt's statement, in his recent address to Congress, that "this year 1943 will give the United Nations very substantial advance along the roads that lead to Berlin, Rome and Tokyo" is, in my view, entirely justified by a comprehensive survey of the war as a whole. The only questions are how swift the advance will be and how far it will go. I believe that it is already swifter than many think who limit their attention to isolated episodes of fighting. Temporarily it may be checked by unforeseen impediments. But, just as Russian commanders have surmounted formidable hedgehog positions and swept on to wider victory, so I feel assured that the cause of the United Nations will flow around stubborn obstacles until it submerges effective resistance in an irresistible tide of triumph.

The present year should bring the frontiers of deliverance within reach and perhaps see them garrisoned by forces of freedom.

## CORPORAL HITLER'S BLUNDERS

**In Russia the enemy has lost about 800,000 men in killed and prisoners (exclusive of wounded) in rather less than three months. Corporal Hitler's blunders have been as costly as General Ludendorff's.**

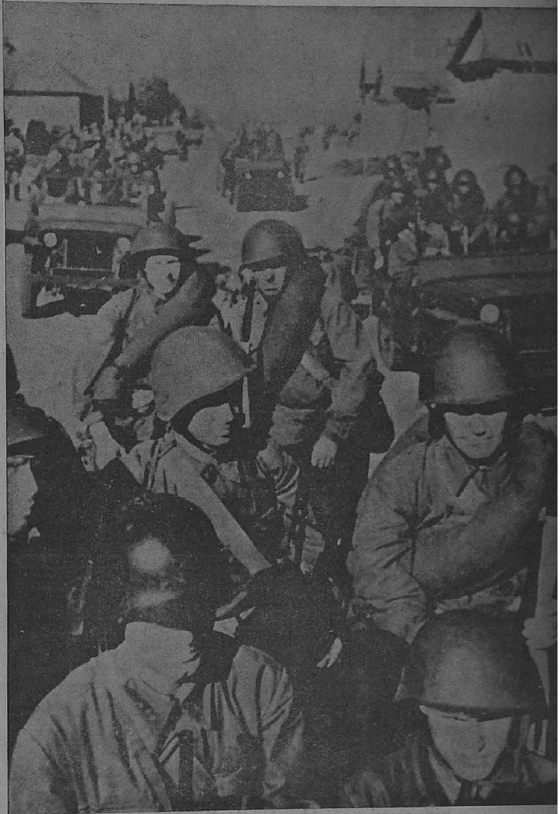
# Vigour of the Russian Offensive

By MAJOR-GENERAL SIR CHARLES GWYNN

IN their hasty withdrawal from the Terek Valley salient in the East Caucasus, the Germans no doubt to some extent fell back on a pre-arranged plan. There are, probably, also plans either to hold the Kuna line or withdraw from it, if circumstances dictated. A competent staff would certainly have to draw up such plans in view of the exposed position of the salient, the length of the front that is entailed and the obvious probability that the Russians would again undertake a winter offensive either on a small or a great scale.

What is not clear is why the decision to withdraw was postponed till winter increased the difficulties. It may have been that the Germans were not willing to relinquish the springboard for a renewed attack on Grozni in the spring and considered it safe to hold on under-estimating Russian offensive potentialities. They may have thought that, even should the withdrawal become necessary, the Russian pursuit would not be rapid and could easily be checked by a rearguard action. Hitler may have been responsible for the belated decision or it may have been taken in order, by shortening the front, to release reserves to meet the serious situation on the Don.

It seems certain that Von List was surprised by the Russian drive across the Kalmuck steppes threatening his line of retreat and by the speed, the vigour and the power of the Russian advance.



*SOVIET ANTI-TANK UNIT ADVANCES AT STALINGRAD—Moving up to the Stalingrad battlefront, a Soviet mobile anti-tank unit is seen riding in U.S.-made jeeps, light scout cars with four-wheel drive.*

## HASTY GERMAN WITHDRAWAL

The retreat must have been far more hurried than was ever anticipated involving immense sacrifices in material and very high losses in rearguard action. If it was hoped that the Kuma position might hold long enough to cover further withdrawals, the hope proved short lived and there seems little chance that the Russian pursuit can now be checked short of the Upper Kuban and the Voroshilevsk-Divnoe railway.

The distances to be covered are still very great but the Kamusk forces, possessing large numbers of cavalry as well as armour have developed an astonishing degree of mobility and a considerable striking power.

## THE PROBLEM OF RAILWAYS

The Russians advancing along the Baku railway towards Armavir are not likely to have supply difficulties. They must in the first instance have captured great quantities of German supplies and they will have good railway communications while the line, which may not have been greatly damaged, is repaired.

It would be interesting to know whether the Germans have altered the gauge of the Caucasian railways or whether they have left them unchanged relying on the captured Russian rolling stock in view of the fact that a connection with the German system can only be maintained through the Rostov bottleneck.

The Caucasian front on account of the rapidity and the importance of the development is at the moment the most interesting

but the Russian drive along the Stalingrad-Gokhoretsk line is also making considerable, if a slower, progress.

North of the Don, the German resistance has stiffened as was to be expected since the network of railways, west of the Donetz facilitated the rapid deployment of German reserves and because the Donetz was obviously the position on which the approaches to Rostov could best be defended. The fighting has been very heavy, with the Germans as usual counter-attacking fiercely, though probably more with the object of preventing further Russian advances than initiating a large scale counter-offensive.

**FLIGHT OF GERMAN SIXTH ARMY**

Moreover, it is obviously important for them to retain the bridgehead across the Donetz in the hope that the German Sixth Army can survive till the spring, for only from the Donetz front could a relief offensive be contemplated. Whether the Sixth Army can survive the winter must mainly be a question of supplies for it should be strong enough otherwise to stand a prolonged siege. The progress the Russians are making in Stalingrad would, however, seem to indicate that something is undermining the enemy's morale.

On the central front, the Germans are evidently making desperate efforts to recover Velikie Luki. Their concealment of the capture of this town from the German people may be an extra reason for the efforts they are making. The counter-attacks must have entailed a great expenditure of reserves and even should they eventually prove successful, it seems doubtful whether a strong and well-supplied defensive could be re-established.

It may be concluded that on all fronts, whether progress is fast or slow, the vigour of the Russian offensive is not relaxing.

# A Very Remarkable Campaign

*By* "A Student of War"

WHAT is the true inspiration of these massive strokes which fall on the German anvil with a sort of inevitable tattoo of the blacksmith?

The first destruction has fallen upon the unhappy dupes whom Hitler has pressed into his service. About Stalingrad it was the Rumanians who suffered the earliest and the most disastrous attacks, in the middle Don it was the Italians and now in the south of Voronezh it is the Hungarians.

Thus while selecting for attack a sector where Germany was strategically weakest, the Russians at the same time put their fingers on the spot where she is politically the most vulnerable. It is a strategy similar to that which urges Britain and the United States to concentrate their attacks upon Italy.

Yet we must look farther to discern what is driving Russia to an offensive so skilfully conceived and executed and so resolutely pressed. Clearly, the campaign is engaging very great forces and grave losses are being inflicted on the Sixth Army before Stalingrad. In the Caucasus, the position of General List's armies grows graver every day. The Russian thrust across the upper Manich points directly against their line of retreat. Grozny has long disappeared from even a distant prospect and now even Maikop seems precariously held.

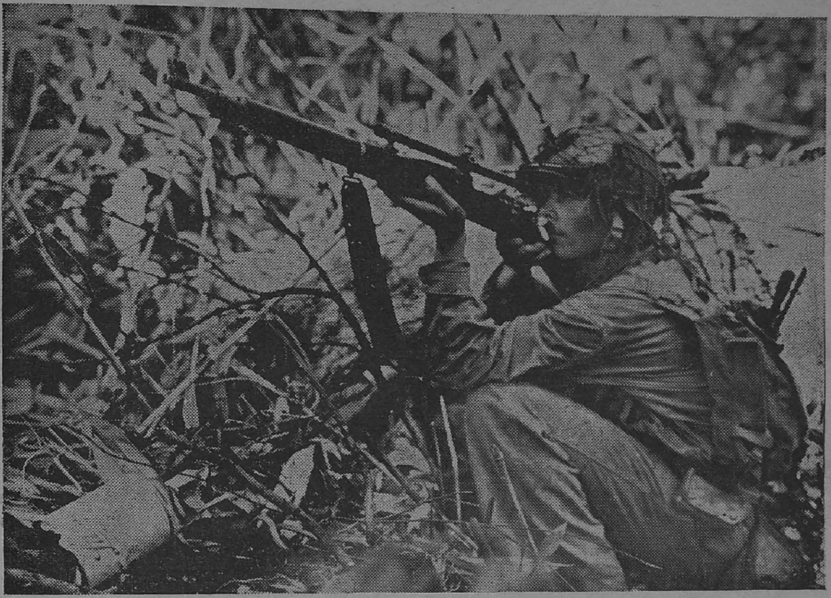
The Russian armies which have maintained their hold on Tuapse and kept a footing in the neighbourhood of Novorossisk are said to be on the move again. Their immediate objective is to prevent the enemy from retiring across the Kerch Straits and to threaten their line of retreat through Velsk.

Farther north, the Russians have approached the point at which the Donetz joins the Don. But these are mere territorial gains. The true Russian objective is the destruction of the armies in the field and with every advance the enemy's position on a greater and greater front grows precarious.

Beyond disguise, too, the retreat is under compulsion and in some places far from orderly.

We are the spectators of a very remarkable campaign. Each step appears to increase its interest and the vital nature of its implications. So far the Russians have been able to break through wherever they wish below Voronezh and this suggests what was probable from the beginning, that this vast territory was easier to overrun than organized for defence. So in every direction great developments are afoot, though clearly the end is not yet.

—*The Daily Telegraph.*



*CRACK SNIPER OF U.S. MARINES IN SOLOMONS.—Taking aim through his telescope sights is one of the crack snipers of the U.S. Marines in the Solomon Islands. Camouflaged to blend with jungle foliage, he and his comrades take pot shots at the enemy from front line outposts.*

# Japan Deprived of Initiative in Far East

By LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR DOUGLAS BROWNRIGG

I propose this week to focus attention on the South-West Pacific. A year ago the Japanese were pressing south in the first flush of their early victories. Soon they had progressed so far that they had occupied what I can best describe as an outpost line, 5,000 miles in length, stretching from Burma in the west by way of Sumatra, Java and New Guinea to the Solomons.

Behind this outpost screen, Japanese leaders commenced consolidation of what they had gained and planned further aggression. Fears were felt for the safety of Australia and India and the line of communication between America and Australia, by way of Pearl Harbour and the southern Pacific, was threatened.

An attitude of passive resistance by the United Nations at that time would have spelt disaster. But no such attitude was adopted. General MacArthur, who was appointed to the supreme command in that theatre, commenced nibbling at the Japanese outpost line.

## WEAKNESS OF STRATEGIC POSITION

From the Japanese point of view, it was essential to establish and maintain advanced air bases right up in their forward positions, not only with a view to future aggression but in order to repel counter-offensive. Here it was that the weakness of the Japanese strategic position became apparent.

Not only was the outpost line from Burma to the Solomons 5,000 miles in length, but it formed the arc of a mighty circle whose centre was at Tokyo, 3,000 miles distant.

Communications from the centre of this circle to any point on the circumference were compelled to traverse the sea and pass through the air. The command of both was, therefore, essential to success. The battles of the Midway island and the Coral Sea were to shew that the command of the sea and the air was still very much in dispute and the recent three-day battle in the north of New Guinea has occasioned such heavy losses to the Japanese air and sea power that leaders of Japan must be beginning to take stock of their resources with a view to deciding whether they can hope to continue to hold so long and so distant an outpost line.

**THE WOUND AND THE RATE OF RECOVERY**

Already that line has been dented. The Australians, with the aid of American assistance in the air, after months of difficult fighting in tropical jungle, in one of the worst climates in the world, have now almost cleared the Japanese out of Papua and in the Solomons, the Americans have established air base from which they can reach Rabaul which appears to be the advanced base of the Japanese operations in the South-West Pacific.

The number of aircraft lost or ships sunk is of itself not the standard by which to judge a nation's wound. What matters most is the patient's probable rate of recovery. In the recent three-day fighting, north of Papua, the Japanese are reported to have lost 137 aircraft and 24 ships, including transports.

The yardstick of measurement must be how far these losses exceed the probable rate of replacement. This cannot, of course, be accurately estimated but we do know that replacements must come entirely from Japan's own resources. She has no contact with the arsenal of Germany—incidentally, Germany has no access to the raw materials which Japan now possesses in superfluity except through the voyage of a very occasional blockade runner.

It is safe to say, therefore, that Japan cannot afford losses at sea or in the air on this scale.

**INITIATIVE**

She must, therefore, either give up the advanced positions which are such a drain on her recources or she must live on her capital. We have a long way to go before Japan can be made to disgorge her conquests but dents made by General MacArthur in her outpost line in the South-West Pacific, combined with the penetration into Burma from India (although only so far on a small scale) are indications that the initiative is, at the moment changing hands in the Far East, as it has already done in the West.

# A Gamble that Failed

*By* LORD STRABOLGI

PRESIDENT Roosevelt in his speech to the 78th Congress of the United States of America described how in 1942 the United Nations had been engaged in stopping the Japanese advance in the Pacific. The President went on to say that in 1943 the United Nations would advance against the Japanese.

It is now only a question of time before the new American construction and continued Japanese losses will tip the balance in favour of the United Nations. In the second week of January this year a new sea-borne expedition of large size and numerical strength was reported as assembling at Rabaul in New Britain, north-east of New Guinea. It was heavily attacked from the air by American and Australian bombing planes. The objective of this new venture might have been a renewed attempt to conquer Papua or to reinforce the strong points at Lae and Salamaua, in New Guinea, or to reoccupy the Guadalcanar and Tulagi islands, in the South Solomons, seized by the Americans.

**DEFENSIVE MOVES**

These would be defensive moves aimed at denying forward bases to the United Nations. The days for more ambitious projects in the South-West Pacific have passed. The necessary advantage of air supremacy is no longer with Japan. The growing air strength of her opponents robbed her of this asset. The heavy damage to the first convoy from Rabaul to Lae, in New Guinea, indicates that air ascendancy has passed from Japan. Other attempts will be made; for Japanese commanders cannot yet incur the loss of "face" that a confession of final defeat in the South-West Pacific would cause.

Whether, as their strength waxes, the United Nations will embark on the long and painful process of reconquering the islands one by one up to and including the Philippines, remains to be seen. These territories are in the tropics and most of the larger islands are mountains, covered with thick forest and lacking in roads. Tropical damp climate makes them a green hell in which to fight. Their loss to Japan would not be a mortal injury. The driving of the Japanese armies from the Chinese mainland would be far more damaging. The Chinese armies number 7,000,000 men of proved military value who have defeated the Japanese invaders again and again on occasions when they fought on equal terms. Chiang Kai-shek's troops only need aircraft and modern weapons to drive the Japanese out of the country altogether.

**CARGO AEROPLANES**

Munitions are being flown from India by cargo aeroplanes. Already more supplies, as President Roosevelt told the Congress, are being flown to Chungking than passed over the Burma Road. Before the Japanese overran Burma, 4,500 trucks carried 17,000 tons of war material a month over this long, twisting, difficult highway. Supplies by air can be greatly increased as large numbers of American transport planes roll off the conveyor belts and come into service. These

*JAP TANKS KNOCKED OUT IN NEW GUINEA.—Australian and American soldiers inspect light Japanese tanks stopped by Allied guns during the United Nations drive to oust the Japanese from the South Pacific island of New Guinea. The tanks were found to be lightly armed and very vulnerable.*

large new transport planes can carry tanks, motor cars and fighter planes as well as artillery ammunition.

In China are ærodromes from which Japanese cities, dockyards, and arsenals can be bombed. In China are harbours on which can be based an Anglo-American fleet to cut off vital sea-borne supplies for Japan. Thus the war in the Pacific can be taken to the heart of Japan.

The weakness in the strategical situation of Japan in 1943 is an unconquered China. It would have been a sounder policy for Japanese leaders to liquidate the so-called "China Incident" before challenging the American and British democracies. They failed to do so despite 2,000,000 Japanese casualties in five years of warfare. The attack on the United States and Britain was, in these circumstances, a gigantic gamble. This gamble has already failed.

# North Africa: British Navy's Magnificent Part

## An Interview with Admiral Cunningham

*By* G. WARD PRICE

THIS North African campaign is a perfect demonstration of sea power.

The landing and the maintenance of Allied armies here has been made possible by the Royal Navy alone.

I have had the privilege of hearing from Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham, Naval Commander of the expeditionary force, some details of the great task which has been carried out under his orders during the last three months.

He said: "Our losses at sea have been surprisingly small in proportion to the great scale of the operation. The whole way from the United Kingdom there has been a constant stream of convoys, some of great size. One of 66 vessels arrived recently. Yet out of close on 1,000 ships that have made the double journey out and back, the sinkings have been less than 3 per cent.

## NO SHIP LOST

"Outside the Mediterranean, I believe, not a single loaded ship has been lost. Casualties have been mainly of empty vessels homeward bound."

There was no mistaking the satisfaction in Admiral Cunningham's keen blue eyes as he glanced at the maps representing the area of his responsibilities.

They hung all over the walls of his office in the building which houses the Allied Headquarters.

"The safety of sea communications of the Allied armies in North Africa," said the Admiral, "is largely due to the excellent arrangements made by the Admiralty for the escort of convoys and to the co-operation of the R.A.F. in harrying submarines.

"The ships, highly skilled in escort work, belonging to the western approaches of the Command, have given valuable aid. The dangers, facing our maritime communications, were great and concentrated.

"There have been 50 enemy submarines at a time, waiting inside and outside the straits of Gibraltar.

## VIGOROUS OFFENSIVE

"These craft have had heavy losses. To Germany the last two months have probably been the most costly, in their whole submarine campaign. But the role of the navy is not confined to defence. We have all the time been carrying on a vigorous offensive against the enemy supply lines across the Sicilian narrows.

"These are harried by our cruisers and destroyers and especially by our submarines. They have also suffered a lot of damage by air attack in which the fleet air arm has taken a big part. Its machines are out every night looking for the enemy ships making a crossing in the dark or trying to slip along the coast.

"There will be heavy fighting here no doubt when the ground dries, but naval and air attack on the enemy's communications, combined with direct assault on his land positions will, I am convinced, drive him out of Tunisia.

"We are sending stores as far east as Bona. The enemy has made strenuous attempts to interfere with this operation. He delivered a heavy air attack on Bona last week but though some damage was done, the service of the port continues as before."

## ITALIAN FLEET

I asked Admiral Cunningham, whether the Italian fleet causes him any anxiety. He replied: "Obviously it will not be possible to establish an Allied domination of the whole of the Mediterranean until the Italian fleet is disposed of.

"If the fleet come out, I have a very powerful force at my command, especially allotted to the task of dealing with it and I have no doubt about the issue.

"Yet we now have complete freedom of movement in both the eastern and the western parts of the Mediterranean. I always felt that our position here would be restored. In fact, I believe myself that the war may well be decided in the Mediterranean.

"One great advantage of the position is already secured. Malta is safe. Convoys are reaching the island frequently from Alexandria, protected by the R.A.F. machines, stationed on the coast of Libya.

"The splendid resistance of Malta has thus borne fruit. Now it is not only fully stocked again but equipped to take an active part in the African campaign by attacking enemy communications to Tunisia. This is being done with good effect by the R.A.F. and the fleet air arm, based on Malta."

## BIZERTA FOR A START

I put a question to the Admiral whether there was ever a possibility of seizing Bizerta at the very start of these operations instead of making Algiers our main objective. He said: "I believe it would have been possible but the plan was rejected on the ground of its probable cost. We should have had to reckon on the loss of a battleship, several cruisers and very likely 25 per cent of the merchant vessels.

"It would clearly have been a great advantage if Bizerta could have been secured that way by direct attack but on consideration it was decided to take a less hazardous course."

Speaking of the political situation which complicates the Allied military and naval position here, Admiral Cunningham said that the death of Darlan had in no way simplified it. In fact, he declared that Darlan's co-operation had been of great practical value to the Allied forces.

But for his "cease fire" order, we should phobably for some time have held no more North Africa than small areas round Casablanca, Oran and Algiers.

We could not carry on the campaign in this country without co-operation from the French.

"Our lines of communication," the Admiral said, "would have been in great danger without the goodwill of the local inhabitants.

"It was Darlan's action in calling off resistance which made it possible to secure the co-operation in the first place and it is now developing automatically."

# Diary of the War

## ENGLAND AND GERMANY

**29th Jan.**—Copenhagen was raided by the Royal Air Force.

American aircraft bombed objectives in Germany. Industrial objectives in Rhineland were attacked.

Reports were current that Germany was preparing to launch peace proposals through General Franco.

A large Axis supply ship was sunk by torpedo bombers off Norway.

Objectives in northern France, Holland and Belgium were attacked by the Royal Air Force.

**30th Jan.**—The Royal Air Force made the first daylight raid on Berlin and delayed Goering's speech for an hour.

In his speech Goering admitted that Germany was deceived by the Finnish war. "Russia's war against Finland was perhaps the cleverest and greatest camouflage in world history."

In his proclamation Hitler said: "To-day there are only two alternatives—victory for Germany and her Allies or the destruction and enslavement of everybody by Bolshevism. We must fight on doggedly."

The German Radio said that reports that Germany was sending a new peace offer to the Allies were "mean invention."

The Royal Air Force raided Berlin a second time before Dr. Goebbels began his speech.

**31st Jan.**—The Royal Air Force attacked objectives in western Germany and bombed Hamburg. Large fires were started.

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## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

**30th Jan.**—Commenting on the anniversary of Hitler's rise to power, the *Herald Tribune* said: "Through ten years of toil, loot and destruction, Hitler has led his people to a point at which the destruction of his regime and all it stood for has become a certainty."

A joint statement issued by President Roosevelt and President Vargas stated that it was the aim of their countries to "make the Atlantic ocean safe for all."

**31st Jan.**—Col. Knox, Secretary for the Navy, declared: "I think there are darned good prospects of an air attack on Tokyo, but when or how it will be hit, I will not say. But they had better get ready."

**2nd Feb.**—Madame Wellington Koo, wife of the Chinese Ambassador in Britain, said in Philadelphia that China was on the verge of an economic collapse.

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## INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

**29th Jan.**—An encounter took place between a party of Chin levies and a Japanese patrol in a village in the Kale area.

**30th Jan.**—The Royal Air Force bombed objectives in Akyab.

**31st Jan.**—There was heavy fighting between the Chinese and Japanese troops near Mong Pan on the China-Burma border.

**1st Feb.**—The Royal Air Force attacked and damaged Japanese water transport on the Mayu river.

**2nd Feb.**—United States planes raided Rangoon. Damage was caused in the dock area.

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## ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

**29th Jan.**—Bizerta was again bombed.

**30th Jan.**—A conference of Japanese diplomats was held in Rome.

The harbour and railway yards at Sfax were bombed heavily.

The Royal Air Force attacked objectives in Sicily.

**31st Jan.**—The Eighth Army's forward elements crossed the Tunisian border.

Seven Axis ships were hit by Allied planes. A position was captured in Kairovan.

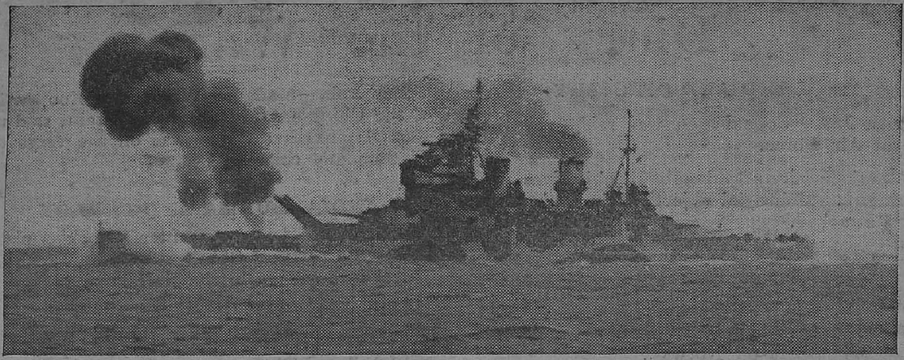
**1st Feb.**—The Royal Air Force raided Akyab.

**2nd Feb.**—Rommel was put under the orders of Rundstedt, commanding in France.

## In Line with R.A.F.

The words "aeroplane" and "aerodrome" are to disappear from the military vocabulary, under an Indian Army Order. "Aircraft" and "airfield" are to take their place.

This will bring the Indian Army into line with the R.A.F. which has always confined itself to the latter titles.



*Mr. A. V. Alexander, the First Lord of the Admiralty, recently announced that Britain has made up all her losses in capital ships in the past 2¼ years. Thus the two additional battleships of the "King George V" class, the "Anson" and the "Howe," which are sister ships also of the "Duke of York," are now in Commission. They were laid down in 1937. Displacement 35,000 tons, complement 1,500, armed with ten 14-inch and sixteen 5·25-inch and various smaller guns. Speed over 30 knots. Photo shows H.M.S. "Anson" on trials.*

Mussolini made a speech to Fascist Youth somewhere in Central Italy when he said: "Our reply to Casablanca—('unconditional surrender of the Axis')—is that while we have the strength to grasp a weapon, we shall not give in."

The Eighth Army took Zuara, Axis harbour in Tripolitania.

General Giraud informed a press representative that he was raising a French army of 300,000 men whom President Roosevelt would equip for the Battle of Europe.

**3rd Feb.**—The Eighth Army reached the Mareth Line. Zilten was occupied. United States troops captured Sened.

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## RUSSIA AND FINLAND

**29th Jan.**—Soviet troops made a new advance on the Voronezh front. A wedge was driven in the Nazi lines near Rostov.

**30th Jan.**—Russian troops occupied Kropotkin in North Caucasus and captured Novo Oskol. Three German Generals fell into the Red Army's hands.

**31st Jan.**—Tikhoretsk and Maikop were recaptured by the Russians.

**1st Feb.**—The Red Army reached Ladozhokaya, 50 miles north-east of Krasnodar. The Maikop oil fields were reconditioned.

**2nd Feb.**—Berlin admitted that the remnants of the German Southern group (Sixth Army) at Stalingrad, after having fired the last round of ammunition, were taken prisoner by the Soviet. Sixteen German Generals were captured. Hundreds of Russian women and children streamed back to Stalingrad. The epic struggle of Stalingrad drew to a close.

The Red Army closed in on Krasnodar. Svatovo was taken.

**3rd Feb.**—The Red Army was 30 miles from Rostov.

Russian troops entered the Finnish port of Petsamo.

The Russians captured Kupyansk.

The last of the German forces at Stalingrad surrendered.

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## NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

**1st Feb.**—It was officially announced that Mr. Churchill visited Turkey as the guest of the Turkish Government.

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## SHIPPING

**1st Feb.**—The Admiralty announced the loss of submarine "P-222."

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## VICHY AND OCCUPIED FRANCE

**1st Feb.**—New measures for the persecution of Jews were adopted in France.

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## THE FAR EAST

**29th Jan.**—Japanese bases were hammered in New Guinea.

**30th Jan.**—Japanese ships were bombed in South Pacific. American troops launched an offensive in Guadalcanar.

**31st Jan.**—Lieut.-General Tomitaro Hori, Commander of the Japanese army in Papua, was drowned in the Kumusi river.

**1st Feb.**—The Japanese were pushed back in New Guinea. An enemy attack in Mubo was repulsed.

The United States submarines sank six Japanese ships.

**2nd Feb.**—Allied aircraft attacked Rabaul.

**3rd Feb.**—There were air and sea battles in the Solomons. Both United States and Japan suffered losses.

The Premier of Australia said that the Japanese were concentrating in the outer fringes of the islands around Australia.

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